

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of improving the purity of an impure material comprising the steps of:
 - a) selecting a solution which comprises said impure material and a non aqueous solvent;
 - b) contacting said solution with an ion exchange resin or adsorbent so that said resin or adsorbent removes impurities from the impure material;
 - c) collecting solution after contact with said resin or adsorbent in step b); and
 - d) removing said non-aqueous solvent from the solution collected in step c), thereby leaving a material of improved purity.
2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said non-aqueous solvent is a halogenated hydrocarbon, ketone, alcohol, ether, hydrocarbon, ester, nitrile or a mixture thereof.
3. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2~~, wherein said non-aqueous solvent is a fluorinated hydrocarbon solvent.
4. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said non-aqueous solvent comprises tetrafluroethane.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said non-aqueous solvent includes a fluorinated hydrocarbon solvent together with one or more co-solvents.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, which includes preparing a said solution comprising said impure material and a said non-aqueous solvent which comprises a fluorinated hydrocarbon solvent prior to step (b) and, subsequently, contacting the solution prepared with ion-exchange resin or adsorbent in step (b).

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said impure material comprises a naturally-occurring material, a material derived from a natural source or a synthetic material.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said impure material comprises an extract from a botanical material.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said impure material comprises a nutraceutical or biologically active extract of a botanical material, a flavour or a fragrance.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the concentration of impure material to non-aqueous solvent in said solution described in step (a) is from 0.01% to 40% by weight of impure material.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the range of ratios of impure material to ion-exchange resin or adsorbent contacted in step (b) is 0.05:1 to 500:1 by weight.

12. (Original) A method for purifying nicotine comprising the steps of

- (a) dissolving nicotine in a non-aqueous solvent to form a nicotine/non-aqueous solvent solution;
- (b) passing said solution formed in step (a) through an ion exchange resin or adsorbent to obtain a solution with reduced colour;
- (c) evaporating said non-aqueous solvent from said solution obtained in step (b) to obtain a low colour nicotine.

13. (Original) A method according to Claim 12, wherein said non-aqueous solvent is 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane or a mixture of 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane with a non-aqueous solvent selected from the group consisting of ketones, alcohols, ethers, hydrocarbons, esters or nitriles or mixtures thereof.